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Jean Lafitte News Release

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Fact Sheet: Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD

Battlefield visitor services and facilities have returned to pre-hurricane status with the following exceptions:

- Battlefield Hours: the battlefield grounds and public restrooms are open Thursday-Monday 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Tuesday-Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Visitor Center – the temporary visitor center is open Thursday-Monday 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Planning for a new permanent visitor center is underway.
- Chalmette Monument - prior to storms, the monument was being cleaned and re-pointed. Scaffolding torn loose by high winds caused some damage to monument cap and steps. Cleaning, re-pointing, and other repairs have been completed. The monument is open on a limited basis.
- Malus-Beauregard House – the historic (built about 1836) house was flooded three feet deep and its slate roof and dormers severely damaged. The house interior was cleaned and restored by National Park Service experts. The house has been re-roofed and other repairs, including many scheduled before hurricanes, are underway and should be completed late in 2008.

CHALMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY

No headstones were significantly damaged but major repair and restoration work continues on structures and trees. Visitors may currently park outside the cemetery gates and access the cemetery on foot. Repairs scheduled to begin in summer 2008 may further limit access, so call the battlefield visitor center 504-281-0511 before planning a visit.

- Trees – seven historic sycamore and live oak trees were uprooted and had to be removed. An additional 40 trees died or were severely damaged by high winds and had to be removed. Invasive non-native trees and other plants are being monitored and removed.
- Cemetery wall – 2500 feet of historic brick wall destroyed. Planning for restoration and repair is underway.
- Other structures - Old superintendent's lodge/current offices (built about 1929) flooded to second story; contents have been removed and building is not in use. Carriage house/maintenance building (1929) and maintenance equipment shed flooded to rafters and all contents were destroyed. Equipment and supplies have been replaced and the two buildings are in limited use.

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